

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 AID-05 /072 W  
-----121736Z 041383 /43

R 111423Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7311  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 2043

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINES

SUBJECT: THE "NEW REPUBLIC" VESCO/FIGUERES/ODUBER IMBROGLIO

REF: SAN JOSE 2018

1. SUMMARY: FIGUERES REPORTEDLY HAS COPIES OF INCRIMINATING  
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION CHECKS FROM VESCO. RESOLUTIONS INTRO-  
DUCED FOR CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION. MEDIA CONTINUE TO  
HIGHLIGHT THE SCANDAL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PUBLIC CLAMOR OVER JOSE FIGUERES' REVELATIONS CON-  
CERNING VESCO-FINANCED CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRESIDENT ODUBER'S  
AND VARIOUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES' 1974 ELECTION  
CAMPAIGNS REMAINS HIGH. A NEW WRINKLE WAS ADDED MAY 9 WHEN  
DAILZC"PRENSA LIBRE" REPORTED FIGUERES HAD COPIES OF VESCO  
CHECKS TOTALLING 3 MILLION COLONES (\$350,000) USED TO TRANS-  
MIT FUNDS TO VARIOUS POLITICAL  
CAMPAIGNS. THE ARTICLE, CITING

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FRIENDS OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT AS SOURCESCK INDICATED  
DON PEPE WAS CONSIDERING RELEASE OF THE MATERIAL IF  
POLITICAL

LEADERS DO NOT STOP SINGLING HIM OUT FOR  
RELATIONS WITH VESCO.

3. SIXTEEN OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS INTRODUCED A MOTION

IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE FIGUERES' DECLARATIONS. A SIMILAR RESOLUTION DRAFTED BY SIGURD KOBERG (WHO IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE TIED TO VESCO) WAS PRESENTED BY THE OTHER OPPOSITION GROUP, NATIONAL UNIFICATION. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE -- THE KOBERG MOTION DID NOT MENTION VESCO BY NAME. STILL ANOTHER MOTION WAS INTRODUCED BY THE TWO COMMUNIST LEGISLATORS ; WHO, WHILE DEMANDING THAT ODUBER EXPEL VESCO FROM COSTA RICA, THREW IN DEMAND FOR EXPULSION OF U.S. MILITARY MISSION AND "KNOWN" CIA OPERATIVES AS WELL. THE THREE RESOLUTIONS WERE NOT DISCUSSED BY ASSEMBLY BECAUSE THE PLN CONTINGENT, STILL DUCKING THE ISSUE, CHOSE TO BE ABSENT AND THUS TO PREVENT A QUORUM.

4. THE PLAN DEPUTIES ARE SCHEDULED TO GET TOGETHER MAY 10 TO DISCUSS WHAT COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE REGARDING THE FIGUERES' ASSERTIONS. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, PARTY LEGISLATIVE LEADER AND EX-ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ALFONSO CARRO INDICATED THAT PLN CONTINGENT'S POSITION WOULD BE MADE KNOWN.

5. THERE IS INCREASING DEMAND THAT PRESIDENT ODUBER

QUIT AVOIDING THE ISSUE AND ADDRESS FIGUERES' ALLEGATIONS SQUARELY. LEADING DAILY "LA NACION" (MAY 10) IN ANOTHER FORCEFUL EDITORIAL SAYS THE PRESIDENT CANNOT SUPERFICIALLY DISMISS SUCH GRAVE CHARGES BY SAYING HE WON'T GET INTO UNCLASSIFIED

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A FIGHT WITH FIGUERES. "LA NACION" CALLS IT IMPERATIVE THAT ODUBER EXPLAIN HIS CONDUCT AND DISCUSS THE ISSUE SUBSTANTIVELY. IN AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT, SIGNIFICANTLY FRONT-PAGED BY PRO-PLN DAILY "EXCELSIOR", OPPOSITION DEPUTY RODOLFO PIZA CALLED ODUBER'S RESPONSE TO THE FIGUERES' DECLARATIONS UNACCEPTABLE AND DEMANDED THE PRESIDENT BREAK HIS SILENCE.

6. ODUBER WILL APPEAR ON NATIONWIDE T.V. TONIGHT -- BUT NOT LIVE. SIGNIFICANTLY HIS MAY 8 STUMP SPEECH IN WHICH HE CALLED FIGUERES' REMARKS "IMPRUDENCE" (REFTEL) WILL BE BROADCAST. FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, ODUBER APPARENTLY WILL NOT MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON DON PEPE'S CHARGES.

7. ALSO EXPECTED TO SPEAK OUT ON THE FIGUERES' ASSERTIONS TODAY IS THE PLN'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE.  
KILDAY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009